

**Minutes of a Meeting of Brickhill Parish Council held on Thursday 10 January 2008
at St Mark's Church & Community Centre, Calder Rise, Bedford
commencing at 7.30 pm**

Present:

Cllr Fitzpatrick (Chairman), Cllr Blakeman, Cllr Green, Cllr Hand, Cllr Holden, Cllr Humphries, Cllr McConnell, Cllr Ovenell, Cllr Rider, Cllr Royden, Cllr Seymour, and the Clerk. PC Hawkey attended for item 4. Six members of the public attended.

Apologies:

Cllr Haughton (unwell).

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| 1 | <u>Apologies</u> Cllr Humphries submitted late apologies for his unexpected absence at the previous meeting on 1 November 2007 (hospital). Cllr Hand and McConnell also apologised for their late arrival at the present meeting. All the apologies were accepted. | <u>Action</u> |
| 2 | <u>Declaration of Interests in matters on the agenda</u> None. | |
| 3 | <u>Confirmation of the Minutes of the meeting held on 1 November 2007</u> <u>Resolved:</u> to approve the minutes as a correct record of the meeting. | Clerk |
| 4 | <u>Police Matters (agenda item 10)</u> PC Dave Hawkey circulated crime figures for Brickhill for the period 01/04/2005 to 31/12/2007 and gave a verbal report on recent policing in the parish. It was noted that there were renewed problems with youths congregating around Avon Drive shops, around Aelfric Court and around St Marks Church and engaging in anti-social behaviour and criminal damage. There had also been a number of burglaries both dwellings and commercial properties. Special Constable Craig Kenny had been working on parking issues in the parish. Signs had been displayed in Mowsbury Park car park and high visibility police patrols were being undertaken to reduce the ongoing problems there. Multi-agency surgeries were being held at St Thomas More School. The usual police surgeries continued and had been very busy during January with 37 visitors to the surgery by 10 January (the date of the meeting). | |

Public Open Session

Ongoing problems relating to footpath near Douglas Road were reported and a petition requesting closure of the footpath was to be supplied to the Parish Council and the County Council by some of the residents. However other members of the public expressed strong views that the footpath should remain open as it was used for access on a daily basis by many

residents. The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council had received responses from across the parish to its request for views about crime associated with footpaths. This information would be collated and discussed at the February Parish Council meeting. On that occasion the police had been invited to provide an officer to discuss the issue of Designing out Crime from the footpaths and alleyways in the parish. The Chairman advised members of the public that the Parish Council would continue to explore the problems and would give full consideration to the variety of views expressed by all residents before making any representations to other bodies.

5 **Financial Statement and Approval of Accounts**

A financial statement tabled by the Clerk was noted which included accounts for payment which had been authorised in the absence of a parish council meeting in December. The statement also contained details of accounts to be authorised at this meeting (copy attached).

Resolved: to approve the accounts for payment.

Clerk

6 **Budget 2008-9**

Cllrs Rider and Royden expressed a prejudicial interest in an aspect of the Parish Council's budget arising from their employment at St Mark's Church. This concerned the rent paid to St Mark's Church for office accommodation of Parish Council staff and property. Both councillors withdrew from the meeting for the discussion of the administration section of the budget and took no part in the debate thereon. Both councillors voted on the overall budget which was dealt with as a whole on a single vote.

Cllrs McConnell and Hand joined the meeting at this point.

The Clerk had circulated a budget planning document in advance of the meeting (copy in minute book) showing previous and current year's budget, year to date expenditure and projected year end expenditure. It was noted that the Finance Advisory Group had had one meeting during the course of November 2007 and no recommendations were made by that group.

The Chairman tabled a proposed budget which had not been seen or recommended by the Finance Advisory Group. The proposed budget had not been prepared by the Clerk.

Following extensive discussion of each section of the budget and some amendments to the document a vote was taken on the proposed budget appended to these minutes.

Resolved: to approve the budget attached to these minutes.

Cllr Humphries voted against the resolution.

7 **Precept 2008-9**

Resolved: to direct the Bedford Borough Council to collect a precept of £52,200 from the taxpayers of Brickhill Parish.

Cllr Humphries voted against the resolution.

Clerk

- 8 **Confident Communities Funding**
Allocation of £15,000 Confident Communities Funding provided by Bedfordshire County Council was discussed.
Resolved: to request funding for the following actions:
1. Provision of vehicle activated speed signs in two locations in the parish (either Brickhill Drive coming from Manton Heights towards the shops, or the other side of Brickhill Drive coming towards the shops, or Kimbolton Road going north towards the junction with Avon Drive). Cost including speed surveys £11,000.
 2. Provision of Bobby Van service to 29 houses in the parish. Cost £2,900
 3. Provision of mobile climbing tower for four half days during the school holidays for the use of young residents of Brickhill. Cost £600.
 4. Provision of 10 x 2 hour sessions at £50 each of sport activity for young people. Cost £500.
- 9 **Clerk's Report**
A report on the administration of Parish Council business since the meeting on 1 November 2007 had been circulated and was noted. The Clerk advised that an Allotments Report would be provided at the February meeting.
- 10 **Correspondence**
A list of correspondence received by the Parish Council since 1 November 2007 was noted. The Clerk drew attention to the following items:
1. Letter from Bedford Borough Council on Allocations and Designations Development Plan and consultation process.
 2. Letter from Bedfordshire County Council Highways regarding Safer Routes to school work currently underway around Brickhill Lower School.
 3. Response from Bedfordshire County Council Highways regarding Speed Cushions in Tyne Crescent.
 4. Letter from Bedford Borough Council regarding allotment key deposits at Brickhill Allotments.
- 11 **Calendar of Meetings**
Resolved: to adopt the proposed calendar of meeting circulated in advance of the meeting (copy in minute book).
- 12 **MUGA/Youth Facility**
There was further discussion of the continued need for a multi use games area within the parish.
Resolved: that following a long period of consultation involving the police, residents, council officers and other interested parties, Brickhill Parish Council recognises the importance of providing a multi-use games area in Brickhill. It is considered that such a facility would be of considerable benefit in an area lacking in adequate youth facilities. The Parish Council with the support of all three Brickhill Borough Councillors and the Brickhill County Councillor would ask the Borough Council to enter into a process to provide plans for the provision of this facility on the green alongside

Clerk
Chairman

Allotments
Officer

Clerk

Clerk

Waveney Avenue.

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Approved by Chairman
7 February 2008

Dates of Next Meetings:

Parish Council 7 February 2008 7.30 pm
Planning Committee 7 February 2008 6.45 pm
Parish Council 6 March 2008 7.30
Planning Committee 6 March 6.45 pm